about the abuse and torture of Asian maids including those of Indian origin in the Gulf countries; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to prevent the continuance of such exploitation of women?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RADHAKRISHAN MALAVIYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Suitable instructions have since been issued to the concerned Indian Embassies in the Gulf regin in order to prevent the abuse and torture of Indian maids in those countries, The Indian Missions also take appropriate action to redress the grievances of the Indian emigrats whenever these are brought to their notice.

Difficulty in obtaining Caste certificate for SC/ST in Maharashtra

3188. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that in Maharashtra and particularly in Bombay City, a large number of workers belonging to SC and ST communities whose parents migrated to Maharashtra are finding it difficult to obtain their Certificates from Maharashtra Administration under the existing rules;

(b) if so. what are the reasons for the same ; and

(c) whether it is proposed to review or amend the existing rules so that the workers mentioned at (a) above may obtain their Caste Certificates and enjoy the benefits that accrue as a result of those Certificates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI) : (a) No Sir, The Government of India have already liberalised the rules for issue of certificates to the migrated Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribe persons from one State to another. According to the latest instructions the migrated Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes children can get such a certificate from the local revenue authority in the migrated State on the basis of certicate issued to their father in the place of their origin except where the prescribed authority feels that detailed enquiry is necessary through the State of origin before issue of the certificate. However, in such cases they would continue to get the privileges and concessions as a Scheduled Caste /Scheduled Tribe from the State of their origin and not from the State to which they have migrated.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Foreign collaboration in Seed Sector

3189. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA :

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) what are the details of the companies whose foreign collaborations have been approved by the department of Industrial seed development since new policy on seed development was announced last year along with the names of the foreign collaborations companies and terms of such collaborations, companywise ;

(b) what are the details of the companies whose proposals for foreign collaborations are pending and since when and the reasons for delay ;